

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

April 19, 2005

The Department of Health Services includes two major operating units, each with separate, but related missions and functions. Personal Health, which includes our hospitals, comprehensive health centers and health centers, has as its mission to provide health care for the indigent. Public Health's mission is to protect and improve the health of the entire 10 million population of the County. Public Health includes not only communicable disease control and the sexually transmitted disease and tuberculosis clinics held at 14 health centers, but also includes offices or programs for environmental health, health assessment and epidemiology, maternal child adolescent health, Children's Medical Services, AIDS Programs and Policy, Alcohol and Drugs, Bioterrorism preparedness, nutrition, tobacco, and injury and violence prevention.

The problems at King/Drew Medical Center have demanded an enormous amount of attention by the Board and by Department managers during the past year and it is clear that the disproportionate focus by DHS managers will have to continue for at least another several years. This attention to King/Drew creates the risk that the Department and the Board will not pay significant attention to ongoing issues in the rest of the County's healthcare system. The Department also faces significant budget issues, with a projected deficit of over

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\$1 billion over the next five years, caused by the reduction in federal and state revenues supporting health care at our facilities. Significant reductions in personal health services may be needed to achieve a balanced budget. In making these cuts, it is important to keep the separate missions of public health and public health care in mind, so that programs which protect and promote the health of the entire population are not compromised.

In addition, we are considering the option of creating a health authority to administer the system of hospitals and ambulatory care. Because of its different mission and statutory requirements, Public Health may not be appropriate to include in a new health authority.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Administrative Officer, to prepare and submit to the Board in 30 days a comprehensive analysis of the advisability and implications, including fiscal, of separating Public Health from the healthcare components of the Department of Health Services and creating a separate Hospitals, health centers and EMS Department.

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